

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/040 W

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R 232013Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9848

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 3337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UY

SUBJ: DEMOCRATS WIN FIRST MAJOR UNION ELECTION

HELD SINCE 1973.

1. SUMMARY. CGTU PRESIDENT ROBERTO BORRAZAS WAS RE-ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF A LARGE MONTEVIDEO BUS WORKERS UNION ON SEPTEMBER 25. THE OVERWHELMING VICTORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SLATE IN WHAT WAS THE NATION'S FIRST ELECTION IN A MAJOR UNION SINCE 1973, REPRESENTS NOT ONLY A DEFEAT FOR THE COMMUNISTS BUT ALSO A BOOST FOR DEMOCRATIC LEADERS WHO HAD CONVINCED THE GOU THAT THEY COULD WIN AN HONEST TEST OF STRENGTH. END SUMMARY

2. IN THE NATION'S FIRST ELECTION IN A MAJOR LABOR UNION SINCE AUGUST, 1973, ROBERTO BORRAZAS WAS RE-ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LARGE CUTCSA UNION OF MONTEVIDEO BUS WORKERS. BORRAZAS CARRIED HIS COMPLETE SLATE INTO OFFICE WITH HIM.

3. PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 25 ELECTION, BORRAZAS HAD TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE ONLY OPPOSITION CANDIDATE WITH ENOUGH APPEAL TO PRESENT A SERIOUS CHALLENGE WAS A COMMUNIST CANDIDATE WHO WAS A GOOD MAN IN EVERY SENSE BUT IDEOLOGY. NEVERTHELESS, BETWEEN 2500 AND 2600 OF CUTCSA'S 2700-ODD

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WORKERS TURNED OUT AND GAVE BORRAZAS, WHO IS ALSO PRES-

IDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS OF URUGUAY (CGTU), 78 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE BORRAZAS SLATE CARRIED EVERY POLLING PLACE BY AN AMPLE MAJORITY.

4. BORRAZAS AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC LABOR LEADERS HAD SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING GOU LABOR AUTHORITIES THAT THEY COULD WIN IN AN OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH CONCERNED, AGREED TO LET THE ELECTION TAKE PLACE. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE MAJORITY NOT ONLY CONFIRMED THE CLAIMS OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR BUT ALSO ENHANCED BORRAZAS' POSITION AS A NATIONAL LABOR LEADER.

5. GDS
SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, UNION REFERENDUMS, ELECTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTEV03337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750336-0327
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750923/aaaaatvv.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMOCRATS WIN FIRST MAJOR UNION ELECTION HELD SINCE 1973.
TAGS: ELAB, UY, CGTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006